

Message Text

SECRET

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41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 092417

P R 291218Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0629

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 06417

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, SP

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO

REF: STATE 91998

1. DCM CALLED ON FCO PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY BRIMELOW
APRIL 28 TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL. HE BEGAN BY
REVIEWING BRIEFLY US-SPANISH BASE TALKS ALONG LINES OF
STATE 80158 AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL BRIEFING OF
APRIL 4. DCM STRESSED THAT THE SPANISH CONTINUE TO
PRESS FOR A TIE WITH NATO AS THE SINE-QUA-NON FOR CON-
TINUED USE OF ALL FACILITIES WE NOW ENJOY. HE THEN
ELABORATED POINTS IN PARA 3 REFTEL, FOLLOWING UP WITH
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CITATION OF SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR BILATERAL AND

MULTILATERAL COOPERATION WITH SPAIN.

2. BRIMELOW RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT DEMARCHE. THE POINTS WE HAD MADE WOULD BE STUDIED CAREFULLY AND REFERRED TO MINISTERS BUT HE RECALLED FONSEC'S STATEMENTS TO AMBASSADOR ON APRIL L2 (LONDON 5562). BRIMELOW CALLED ATTENTION TO THE SENSITIVITY IN THE BRITISH LABOR PARTY TO THE KINDS OF CONTACTS WITH THE SPANISH WHICH WE WERE SUGGESTING. DCM STATED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE SPECIFIC BRITISH REACTIONS TO EACH OF THE PROPOSED IDEAS FOR COOPERATION.

3. MORGAN, ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, SAID THAT THE UK HAD EARLIER LOOKED AT CERTAIN POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION WITH THE SPANISH, E.G., ATTENDANCE BY SPANISH OFFICERS AT BRITISH MILITARY COLLEGES AND BILATERAL MILITARY LINKS. THE CLIMATE LOOKED MORE DIFFICULT NOW FOR SUCH CONTACTS THAN IT HAD PREVIOUSLY. DCM POINTED OUT THAT WE ARE COMING UP TO THE CRUNCH POINT ON BASE RIGHTS NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN, AND THE KEY QUESTION IS HOW TO PROCEED IN ORDER TO KEEP THE FACILITIES THAT WE NOW ENJOY IN SPAIN. HE MADE CLEAR THAT WASHINGTON FULLY RECOGNIZES THE DIFFERING VIEWS IN THE ALLIANCE ON SPANISH COOPERATION WITH NATO. BRIMELOW THEN OBSERVED THAT THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR HAD CALLED ON HIM RECENTLY URGING THE BRITISH TO MOVE SLOWLY IN THIS MATTER. TO DATE NO OTHER NATO EMBASSY HAD MADE AN APPROACH TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE. BRIMELOW CONTINUED THAT AS YET THE SPANISH HAVE NOT TALKED TO THE BRITISH ABOUT THEIR DESIRES FOR A CLOSER LINK WITH NATO BUT HE NOTED THAT AGUIRRE DE CARCER AND LOS ARCOS WILL BE IN LONDON ON MAY 7 AND HAD PROPOSED A DISCUSSION OF BROAD PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. AT THIS POINT BRIMELOW DIGRESSED TO READ FROM A RECENT CABLE FROM AMBASSADOR WIGGIN IN MADRID AFTER A MEETING WITH AGUIRRE. THE LATTER REPORTEDLY ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT NOT VERY MUCH COULD BE DONE TO ADVANCE SPANISH INTERESTS IN CLOSER TIES WITH NATO UNTIL FRANCO HAD GONE. BRIMELOW OBSERVED THAT THE TIME PRESSURES UNDER WHICH US WAS OPERATING DID NOT FIT WITH WHAT WAS POSSIBLE

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POLITICALLY IN THE ALLIANCE.

4. TO THE DCM'S QUESTION ABOUT BRITISH CONTINGENCY PLANNING POST-FRANCO, BRIMELOW SAID THAT THE BRITISH HAVE FOUND IT HARD TO PLAN SINCE THEY ASSUME THAT THE IMMEDIATE SUCCESSOR REGIME TO FRANCO WOULD NOT LAST VERY LONG AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE AT THIS POINT WHAT THE NATURE OF THE NEXT REGIME WOULD LOOK LIKE. HOWEVER,

BRIMELOW SAID THE FCO WOULD BE HAPPY TO GO OVER THE
GROUND WITH EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES.

5. WHEN WE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE HOPE OF THE USG FOR
SOME EXPRESSION BY THE ALLIES OF A RECOGNITION OF
SPANISH IMPORTANCE TO WESTERN DEFENSE, BOTH BRIMELOW
XGDS-1

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USNMR SHAPE & USCINCEUR.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 092440

P R 291218Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0630

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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AND MORGAN INDICATED THAT THEY SAW DIFFICULTIES.

BRIMELOW RECALLED THE ROWS WHICH HAD ARISEN IN THE NAC
ON EARLIER OCCASIONS WHEN SOME GOVERNMENTS ATTACKED

GREECE AND PORTUGAL ON THE GROUNDS THAT THOSE THEN NON-DEMOCRATIC REGIMES WERE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY. THESE PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES, BRIMELOW SAID, SUGGEST THAT THERE WOULD BE A PROBLEM WITHIN NATO ON GETTING PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF RECOGNITION OF SPAIN'S IMPORTANCE TO THE COLLECTIVE DEFENSE. DCM URGED THAT WE ALL LOOK CAREFULLY TO SEE WHAT COULD MEET SPANISH DESIRES WHILE TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.

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6. MORGAN SAID THAT A BRIEF ON SPAIN AND NATO WILL BE PREPARED FOR THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN SECRETARY FOR THEIR MEETING IN WASHINGTON ON MAY 7. WHILE MORGAN AND BRIMELOW COULD NOT SAY WHETHER THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN SECRETARY WOULD WISH TO RAISE THE MATTER IN WASHINGTON, THEY INDICATED THAT THE FIRST AUTHORITATIVE REACTION WE MIGHT GET FROM OUR DISCUSSION TODAY COULD COME FROM WILSON AND CALLAGHAN. BRIMELOW CONCLUDED BY WARNING THAT THE ISSUE WOULD BE DIVISIVE IF IT WERE RAISED AT THE NATO SUMMIT.

7. IT WAS AGREED MORGAN, WHO SUPERVISES BOTH NATO AND SOUTHWEST EUROPEAN DEPARTMENTS, WOULD CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS.

DEPARTMENT PASS USNMR SHAPE AND USCINCEUR

RICHARDSON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES

SECRET

NNN

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